

Message

From: LaLone, Christopher (DEC) [christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov]
Sent: 1/9/2019 7:38:45 PM
To: Lisichenko, Peter [lisichenko.peter@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: TCC follow-up

It's great. No worries.

From: Lisichenko, Peter [mailto:lisichenko.peter@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 2:28 PM
To: LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov>
Subject: RE: TCC follow-up

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Sorry it's scattered. With more time, could have a writeup that painted a vivid picture of what was accomplished here including all the challenges.

-Pete

Peter Lisichenko
U.S. EPA Region 2
347-276-6251 (cell/text)

From: LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 9, 2019 2:25 PM
To: Lisichenko, Peter <lisichenko.peter@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: TCC follow-up

Pete,

I got your comments. Your input is greatly appreciated. Thanks again.

Chris

From: Lisichenko, Peter [mailto:lisichenko.peter@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 2:21 PM
To: LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov>
Subject: RE: TCC follow-up

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Chris,
I just finished with my comments on your previous email. It will be sent back to you momentarily.
Take what you want from it to incorporate it into your bullets.

-Pete

Peter Lisichenko
U.S. EPA Region 2
347-276-6251 (cell/text)

From: LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 9, 2019 2:04 PM
To: Lisichenko, Peter <lisichenko.peter@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: TCC follow-up

Pete,

I came up with the following for you to look over and add to or correct, as needed, if you have the time. Most importantly the second bullet as I'm not sure how you plan to clean out the moat. Thanks again for your help.

- The ammonia still was being used to remove volatile contaminants from the process wastewater remaining on-site after the shutdown. The still needs heat to remove volatile contaminants from the water, that heat was provided by steam from the natural gas fired boiler. Treated water was sent to the Town of Tonawanda POTW, as was the case when the plant was in operation. Once all the wastewater in on-site tanks was treated the boiler steam was no longer needed so firing of natural gas stopped as did operation of the ammonia still. There is still minimal amounts of wastewater generated on-site. Since that water is no longer being sent to the emptied on-site tanks the EPA OSC has installed a mobile tank system for containing generated wastewater. The EPA OSC checks the quality of this water before sending it to the Town POTW to ensure it meets standards.
- The EPA OSC will remove the contaminated water and solids in the secondary containment moat with..... The collected material is then...
- The EPA OSC worked to isolate portions of the plant no longer needing electricity, heat or water. Power, heat and water to the isolated portions of the plant were systematically shut off to reduce costs for EPA.

Chris

From: Lisichenko, Peter [<mailto:lisichenko.peter@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 1:01 PM
To: LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov>
Subject: Re: TCC follow-up

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Ok. Just changes some of my plans this afternoon. I will get this to you ASAP.

Typically I am offsite at 4, sometimes later depending on our operations that day.

Sent from a mobile device

Peter Lisichenko
On-Scene Coordinator
Region 2 USEPA
347-276-6251

On Jan 9, 2019, at 12:57 PM, LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov> wrote:

Pete, by the end of the day I guess. When do you leave the site normally?

From: Lisichenko, Peter [<mailto:lisichenko.peter@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 12:57 PM
To: LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov>
Subject: Re: TCC follow-up

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Chris,
When do you need this by?

Sent from a mobile device

Peter Lisichenko
On-Scene Coordinator
Region 2 USEPA
347-276-6251

On Jan 9, 2019, at 12:54 PM, LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov> wrote:

Peter,

FYI- below is the bullet responses we gave to buffalo news and the follow-up questions they had. I'm not sure how much detail I really want to get into but I'll take a shot at a response and get it to you. Thanks for your help.

Chris

From: Ringewald, Erica R (DEC)
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 11:53 AM
To: Ryan, Michael (DEC) <michael.ryan@dec.ny.gov>; LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov>; Mahar, Sean C (DEC) <Sean.Mahar@dec.ny.gov>; Brand, Martin (DEC) <martin.brand@dec.ny.gov>
Subject: FW: TCC follow-up

TJ Pignataro, Buff News
DEADLINE: COB

FOLLOW UPS

Are there any further descriptive details you can provide on background for how:

- The boiler was shut down on Dec. 26, 2018, and the ammonia still is no longer in operation. A baker style tank (mobile tank system) with a weir is

on-site and will receive site water now that the boiler is shut down. The EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) has been in contact with the local POTW about batch discharges from this tank.

- Decontamination and removal of the moat secondary containment is scheduled to begin this week.
- Utilities (electricity, water and natural gas) have been shut off for the majority of the plant.

I guess I'm looking for a little bit more of a play-by-play as to how, technically, these things are accomplished, and what, if any, challenges arise in the process thereof.

If these are questions more suited to the EPA itself, LMK.

Thanks again!

-tj.

From: Ringewald, Erica R (DEC) <Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 1:05:15 PM
To: Pignataro, Todd
Subject: TCC follow-up

TJ, a few updates below. Hope this is helpful. Call me if you want to discuss

ER

STATEMENT FOR ATTRIBUTION TO MARTIN BRAND, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT, NYS DEC

Across the state, DEC optimizes strategies based on lessons learned from successful cleanup projects, including similarly contaminated industrial sites like Morgan Materials and the Bethlehem Steel site. New York's responsible and aggressive approach has resulted in hundreds of successful cleanups strategically designed to safeguard communities from environmental harm, provide flexibility for future redevelopment, and meet the needs of local planning and development agencies. New York State is on the job at this site and committed to a comprehensive cleanup that the Tonawanda community deserves.

After the EPA's work to stabilize and secure the site is complete, a comprehensive investigation is necessary to understand the full nature and extent of contamination. DEC and EPA will conduct a full analysis of cleanup strategies, which will inform the selection of an appropriate cleanup action(s) to prepare the property for future re-use.

ON BACKGROUND

- EPA, contractors, and site security remain working despite federal government shutdown.
- EPA is working on updating the contingency plan to account for the changes to the site.
- The boiler was shut down on Dec. 26, 2018, and the ammonia still is no longer in operation. A baker style tank (mobile tank system) with a weir is on-site and will receive site water now that the boiler is shut down. The EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) has been in contact with the local POTW about batch discharges from this tank.
- Decontamination and removal of the moat secondary containment is scheduled to begin this week.
- DEC is not aware of any acute issues that are an imminent threat to public health or the environment. The moat is not an acute issue.
- Utilities (electricity, water and natural gas) have been shut off for the majority of the plant.

From: Pignataro, Todd [<mailto:TPignataro@buffnews.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 7, 2019 10:14 AM
To: Ringewald, Erica R (DEC) <Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov>
Subject: TCC follow-up

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hi Erica,

I hope your family's doing better health-wise this week. It sounds like some nasty stuff is going around.

I'm back on the TCC beat again this week.

If possible, I'm hoping for a general update as to what's been going on at the site since early to mid December.

From some drone images our photographers obtained last week, it appears as though some work has been done at or around those open moat areas that were of original concern to the EPA investigator in October.

Have those issues of concerns at the moats been ameliorated? If yes, how was that accomplished?

What other acute issues remain? How long might it take for them to be rendered non-threatening to public health or the environment?

What are the next steps in the process, and is there a general timeline as to what goals are set for 2019?

Thanks!

Best,

-tj.

TJ Pignataro
News Environment Reporter, The Buffalo News

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